ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A zoom lens system includes a negative first lens group, a positive second lens group, and a positive third lens group. The negative first lens group includes a negative meniscus lens element having the convex surface facing toward the object, and the positive third lens group includes a positive biconvex lens element. Upon zooming, at least the negative first lens group and the positive second lens group are moved. A diaphragm is provided on the object side of the positive second lens group, and moves integrally therewith. The zoom lens system satisfies the following conditions: $0.25 < R1/D1 < 0.55 \ldots (1)$; $0.25 < f2/TL < 0.45 \ldots (2)$ wherein R1: the radius of curvature of the image-side surface of the negative meniscus lens element; D1: the distance between the negative first lens group and the positive second lens group at the short focal length extremity; f2: the focal length of the positive second lens group; and TL: the distance from the most object-side surface the negative first lens group to the most image-side surface of the positive third lens group, at the short focal length extremity.